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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-18 10-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-07 H-04 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
SMS-01 EB-08 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ANAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0027
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY Dacca
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCEUR VAIHENGEN GE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AIR

REVIEWED BY John Kelly DATE 8/14/89
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() ORIGINALLY as _____, OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 2430

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/25/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. B.) OR-M
TAGS: ASEC PEPR PINS PINT SHUM AF
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 2380 ✓
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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

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2. SUMMARY: RELATIVE CALM HAS RETURNED TO KABUL AND TRANSPORT AND HELICOPTER FLIGHTS FROM THE AIRPORT HAVE DIMINISHED. HOWEVER, RESISTANCE ACTIVITY ALONG THE HIGHWAY TO JALALABAD CLOSED THAT MAJOR ARTERY FOR THREE DAYS LAST WEEK AND RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF A WEST GERMAN TOURIST. SOVIET AND AFGHAN SWEEPS OF WARDAK AND QUN PAGHMAN AREAS HAVE WOUND UP, BUT MANY RESIDENTS OF THOSE AREAS ARE STILL MOVING INTO KABUL. THE CITY POLICE HAVE ORDERED OUT OF TOWN TAXIS AND BUSES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME BASES AND ANNOUNCED THAT NO NEW TAXIS WILL BE APPROVED -- APPARENTLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO FURTHER REDUCE POTENTIAL RESISTANCE ACTIVITY. SPOT CHECKS OF VEHICLES ARE CONTINUING, AND THE CURFEW HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN LENGTHENED. END SUMMARY.

3. FIGHTING IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF KABUL HAS DIED DOWN IN THE PAST SIX DAYS, AND THE CITY HAS RETURNED TO WHAT PASSES FOR NORMALCY. THE NUMBER OF HELICOPTER FLIGHTS VISIBLE TO EMBOFFS HAS ALSO DROPPED CONSIDERABLY, AS HAS HEAVY SOVIET AIR TRANSPORT ACTIVITY. MILITARY CONVOY TRAFFIC THROUGH THE CITY HAS KEPT UP AT A STEADY PACE, HOWEVER.

4. THE DEATH OF A WEST GERMAN TOURIST WAS REPORTED BY THE DRA TO THE FRG EMBASSY ON AUGUST 22. THE CHARGE TOLD US THAT THE MFA SAID THE TOURIST WAS "SHOT ON AUGUST 20 BY REBELS WHO MISTOOK HIM FOR A RUSSIAN." THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS THIS SIDE OF JALALABAD. THE BRITISH EMBASSY OBTAINED A HURRIED ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT FROM ONE OF ITS CITIZENS WHO WAS WITH A GROUP TRAVELING BEHIND THE GERMAN AND HIS TWO COMPANIONS. ONE VERSION OF THAT ACCOUNT INDICATES THAT THE GERMANS AND THE TWO OTHER VEHICLES OF TRAVELERS WERE STOPPED BY MUJAHEDDIN THE
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MORNING OF AUGUST 20 AND TOLD TO RETURN TO KABUL BECAUSE OF UNSPECIFIED TROUBLE FURTHER ON. THE OTHERS DID AS THEY WERE ADVISED, BUT THE GERMANS APPARENTLY TRIED TO ARGUE WITH THE MUJAHEDDIN. A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE OTHERS WATCHED IN HORROR AS A SOVIET MI-24 CAME OVER THE HILL AND BEGAN STRAFING THE ROADBLOCK WHERE THE GERMANS WERE TALKING WITH THE MUJAHEDDIN. THEY COULD NOT TELL WHETHER THE MUJAHEDDIN HAD ALREADY SHOT THE GERMAN FOR TRYING TO CRASH THROUGH THE ROADBLOCK OR IF HE WAS HIT BY A SHELL FROM THE HELICOPTER.

5. THE DRA AT FIRST OFFERED TO RETURN THE BODY OF THE

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GERMAN TO KABUL TO TURN OVER TO THE FRG EMBASSY, BUT LATER ADVISED THAT THE ROAD WAS "UNSAFE" AND THAT THE BODY COULD ONLY BE BROUGHT BY HELICOPTER. THE GERMANS WERE TOLD THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE HIGH COST OF SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS, THERE WERE NO HELICOPTERS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME. SINCE THEY DID NOT KNOW HOW TO REACH THE FAMILY OF THE DEAD MAN, THE EMBASSY AGREED TO HAVE THE BODY BURIED IN JALALABAD. WHEN LAST HEARD FROM (VIA THE DRA), THE COMPANIONS OF THE DECESSED WERE IN JALALABAD AND PLANNED TO PROCEED TO PAKISTAN AS SOON AS THEY COULD JOIN A PROTECTED CONVOY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 2430

6. THAT ACTION AND A POSSIBLY CONNECTED ATTACK ON A MILITARY
CONVOY NEARBY ON THE SAME DAY FORCED THE CLOSURE OF
THE HIGHWAY FROM AUGUST 20 TO 23, ACCORDING TO THE INDIAN
AMBASSADOR (PROTECT). THE AMBASSADOR (AND US EMBASSY
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PERSONNEL) COUNTED 38 SOVIET APCs HEADED TOWARD
JALALABAD NEAR MIDNIGHT AUGUST 20. HE IS CONVINCED THAT HE

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SAW THE SAME COLUMN RETURN ON AUGUST 23, WITH OVER HALF OF THE VEHICLES DISABLED, SEVERAL WITH BATTLE DAMAGE AND TWO COMPLETELY BURNED OUT. (EMBOFFS ALSO SAW SOME OF THOSE VEHICLES.) THE FRENCH CHARGE SAW SOME OF THE SAME TRAFFIC AND QUOTED ONE OF HIS SOURCES AS REPORTING THAT "DOZENS" OF SOVIET MILITARY AMBULANCES WERE SEEN ENTERING KABUL FROM THE JALALABAD ROAD ON AUGUST 22 AND 23. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT THERE WAS A MAJOR MUJAHEDDIN ATTACK ON THE JALALABAD AIRPORT ON AUGUST 20 OR 21.

7. RESIDENTS OF THOSE AREAS HAVE INFORMED EMBOFFS THAT THE SOVIET/AFGHAN ARMY ANTI-MUJAHEDDIN SWEEPS OF WARDAK PROVINCE AND THE HILLS AROUND PUGHMAN WOUND UP BY AUGUST 22. SEVERAL RESIDENTS OF PUGHMAN REPORTED THAT AFTER RECEIVING LECTURES FROM SOVIET AND DRA OFFICIALS ABOUT HOW FURTHER DISSIDENT ACTIVITY WOULD BE "CRUSHED", MANY FAMILIES HAVE FOLLOWED THEIR FRIENDS INTO KABUL FOR SAFETY. MOST OF THE NEW ARRIVALS SEEMS TO BE RELATIVELY WELL TO DO AND TO BE STAYING WITH RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

8. IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT CARRIED OVER KABUL MEDIA AUGUST 21, THE CITY POLICE NOTIFIED TAXI OWNERS THAT "DUE TO THE NUMEROUS TAXIS" ALREADY ON THE STREETS, NO NEW PERMITS WOULD BE AVAILABLE. THE POLICE ALSO ORDERED ALL PROVINCIAL TAXIS AND BUSES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME AREAS, AND WARNED THOSE BASED IN KABUL THAT THEY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO "SERIOUS CONTROL" AND SEVERELY PUNISHED IF FOUND GUILTY OF INFRACTIONS OF THE LAW. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THESE MEASURES ARE DESIGNED TO FURTHER REDUCE THE WAYS IN WHICH DISSIDENTS AND WOULD-BE ASSASSINS CAN MOVE ABOUT THE CITY.

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9. THE POLICE HAVE CONTINUED TO SPOT-CHECK PUBLIC AND PRIVATE VEHICLES ON KABUL STREETS, AND THE EMBASSY HAS RENEWED ITS REQUESTS TO THE MFA FOR IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR THE STAFF SINCE DIPLOMATIC CARS ARE BEING STOPPED (BUT NOT SEARCHED). SINCE THESE ACTIONS DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE SLOWED RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN THE CITY, THE CURFEW IS BEING FURTHER LENGTHENED AND NOW RUNS FROM 11 P.M. TO

4 A.M.
GRIFFIN

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